

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK 0000
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2126

USIA FOR IAA, IOP/M
SECSTATE FOR AF/S

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: US/RSA/RHODESIA/SWA IN RSA PRESS

SUMMARY: VARIOUS REPORTS CARRIED IN JOHANNESBURG ENGLISH
AND AFRIKAANS PRESS REFLECTIVE OF RSA COVERAGE OF EVENTS
IN AND ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. JOHANNESBURG 'THE STAR' OF APCL 29 CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE
STORY THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG "REITERATED" HE BELIEVED SAG
WAS ILLEGITIMATE BECAUSE HE SAID IT DID NOT REPRESENT THE
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO SERVE..." THERE
ARE REALLY JUST A FEW MILLION PEOPLE THAT MAKE DECISIONS
ABOUT A NATION OF MORE THAN 20 MILLION... I THINK THAT
ONE OF THE CRITERIA IS WHETHER THE GOVT IS REALLY REPRESENTATIVE
AT ALL... IT REPRESENTS ONLY WHITES.. IT DOESN'T
REPRESENT BLACKS... NOW THAT HAPPENS TO BE THE GOVT WE
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WORK WITH."

2. OTHER ARTICLE IN SAME PAPER QUOTED DIRK MUDGE SAYING
"IT WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
FOR WESTERN ENVOYS TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH TURNHALLE
LEADERS... I CAN SAY HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM THAT
THEY ARE ONLY PREPARED TO TALK TO US THROUGH A THIRD PARTY."

MUDGE REPORTEDLY NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT INT'S COMMUNITY WOULD ACCEPT TURNHALLE-TYPE GOVT BUT HE HIMSELF STRONGLY REAFFIRMED FAITH IN TURNALLE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. ARTICLE SAID MUDGE FELT "BUG POWERS" ALLOWED AFRICA POLICY TO BE DICTATED BY OAU WHICH RECOGNIZES ONLY SWAPO, THAT MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS HAD WON EVERY TIME IN AFRICA BUT "WE CAN CHANGE THE SITUATION HERE IN SWA/NAMIBIA... IT WOULD BE UP TO INTERIM GOVT TO STEM THE MILITANT TIDE AND SHOW THE WORLD THAT IT HAD A BETTER SOLUTION."

3. THE STAR CARRIED TWO REPORTS FROM LONDON, ONE STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNT OF OWEN MEETING WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHICH SAID "NO FIRM ANNOUNCEMENT" OF DECISION ON NEXT MOVE OR ON WHETHER CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE CALLED IT EXPECTED UNTIL MAY 6 MEETING BETWEEN OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE. ARTICLE SAID "IT IS EVIDENT THAT ANOTHER GENEVA STYLE FAILURE WOULD MAKE MATTERS MUCH WORSE." SECOND STORY LISTED CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN ANNUAL SURVEY INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, SOUTHERN AFRICA CONFLICT HAS GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR PRECIPITATING CONFRONTATION OF MAJOR POWERS; AREA'S RACIAL CONFLICT OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO USSR WHICH DIFFICULT TO RESIST, ATTRACTIVE FROM IDEOLOGICAL VIEW AND ACCOMPANIED BY LITTLE POLITICAL RISK; US IN ANGOLA FOUND ITSELF ON LOSING SIDE ALLIED WITH RSA; KISSINGER FAILED BECAUSE OF IAN SMITH; SALISBURY AND PRETORIA COULD HOLD OUT MILITARILY BUT COULD ONLY GAIN TIME; STRUGGLE AMONG VARIOUS ZIMBABWE UNCLASSIFIED

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LIBERATION MOVEMENTS LIKELY IN SHORT TERM; AND RACIALISM REMAINED "UNIVERSAL GRIEVANCE AND POWERFUL CATALYST FOR POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED WESTERN WORLD AND WITHIN THE LATTER... PROSPECT FOR ACCOMODATION BECAME MORE REMOTE IN 1976."

4. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS DIE TRANSVALER APRIL 30 SAID U.S. ". HAS DECIDED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH PLANNED RHODESIAN CONFERENCE EVEN IF SOME MAIN PARTIES SUCH AS THE WHITES OR PATRIOTIC FRONT REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE." REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO V P MONDALE. ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT DECISION SPRINGS FROM FACT THAT PF DECLARED IT DOWNS NOT WANT THE US AT CONFERENCE BECAUSE MOVEMENT BELIEVES US WILL TAKE SIDE OF WHITES. MONDALE AND SCHAUFELER BOTH QUOTED AS SAYING THEY HOPE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AND RHODESIAN ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED FULLY BY 1978. HUGHES

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SOPN, SF
To: USIA STATE
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vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8dcb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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